

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraph bridging pages 9 - 10 to be replaced by the following paragraph:

-- Preferably, the derivatives and variants are closely related to one or more components of the naturally occurring MHC molecules, e.g. are encoded by nucleic acid molecules with more than 70%, preferably more than 80, 90 or 95% sequence identity to naturally occurring sequences or exhibit such sequence identity to the functional portions of these sequences, e.g. to naturally occurring allelic geographical or allotypic variants e.g. to sequences as described in the MGT website

(~~http://www.~~ebi.ac.uk/img/hla). Preferably said derivatives or variants exhibit the above-stated sequence identity to sequences identified in "Nomenclature for factors of the HLA system, 1998, Tissue Antigens 1999: 53, 407-446". Such derivatives or variants may be for example, as described in the website

(~~http://www.~~ebi.ac.uk/img/hla) or Table 4. Alternatively stated, the encoded polypeptides may exhibit more than 70%, preferably more than 80, 90 or 95% sequence identity or exhibit such sequence identity to the functional portions of these sequences, e.g. to naturally occurring sequences as described in the IMGT website (~~http://www.~~ebi.ac.uk/img/hla). Preferably said derivatives or variants exhibit the above-stated sequence

identity to sequences disclosed in "Nomenclature for factors of the HLA system, 1998, Tissue Antigens 1999: 53, 407-446". Such derivatives or variants may be for example, as described in the website (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/img/hla>) or Table 4. --